

Message Text

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20

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /061 W

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R 252133Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3075

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2959

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, VE, CO, PFOR, SHUM

SUBJ: NEWSWEEK PIECE ON PURPORTED DETAINEES, APRIL 28 ISSUE

REF: STATE 093934 (NOTAL)

1. NEWSWEEK'S REPORT THAT 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS DETAINED BY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE DINA EARLY IN APRIL HAS BEEN DENIED BY DIRGEN FONMIN JAVIER ILLANES. IN PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 24, ILLANES REFERRED TO STORY AND SAID CHILE, MACARENA AGUILO MARCHI, WAS FREE AND HAD SAFECONDUCT TO LEAVE FOR COLOMBIA TO JOIN MOTHER THERE. ILLANES IDENTIFIED VENEZUELAN EMBASSY HERE AS SOURCE OF REQUEST FOR SAFECONDUCT.

2. MINCOUNS MARITZ EIRIS-VILLEGAS OF VENEZUELAN EMB. SANTIAGO GAVE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF CASE TO EMBOFF APRIL 25: AS REPORTED BY NEWSWEEK, CHILD'S FATHER, HERNAN AGUILO MARTINEZ, A MIR LEADER, IS FUGITIVE FROM GOC SECURITY AGENCIES. MOTHER WAS ASYLEE IN VENEZUELAN EMB, AND LEFT UNDER SAFECONDUCT FOR COLOMBIA ABOUT 10-15 DAYS AGO. MACARENA WAS STAYING WITH RELATIVES, WHO FEARED ARREST THEMSELVES AND WENT INTO HIDING, LITERALLY ABANDONING THE CHILD. OTHER PERSONS THEN REPORTED CHILD TO AUTHORITIES, WHO ROUTINELY TOOK HER TO FACILITY RUN BY CARABINEROS FOR ABANDONED, ABUSED, LOST
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CHILDREN. CHILD WAS ENTERED AS "IDENTITY UNKNOWN". IN MEAN-

TIME RELATIVES WHO HAD HAD CUSTODY OF CHILD WERE ARRESTED, HELD FOR SHORT TIME, AND RELEASED. OTHER RELATIVES IN MEANTIME APPARENTLY LEARNED THAT CHILD HAD BEEN "TAKEN AWAY BY POLICE" AND IMMEDIATELY CLAIMED MACARENA WAS HELD AS HOSTAGE BY DINA. AFTER APPEAL BY RELATIVES TO VENEZUELAN EMB, EIRIS-VILLEGAS LOCATED CHILD APRIL 19 IN POLICE CHILD-CARE FACILITY AND SIGNED CHILD INTO HIS OWN CARE. GOC PROMPTLY AUTHORIZED "COURTESY SAFECONDUCT", AND CHILD IS IN HANDS OF RELATIVES AGAIN WHILE ESCORT IS ARRANGED TO TAKE HER TO MOTHER IN COLOMBIA.

3. FYI. EIRIS-VILLEGAS INDICATES HE BELIEVES OFFICIAL GOC VERSION OF ABANDONMENT OF CHILD. AGUILO FAMILY IS PUSHING STORY THAT CHILE WAS "DETAINED", HOWEVER; EIRIS-VILLEGAS CANNOT RULE OUT THAT POSSIBILITY BUT CLEARLY GIVES IT LESS CREDENCE THAN GOC VERSION. END FYI. HE INDICATED THAT HE IS READY AND WILLING TO DISCUSS CASE WITH PRESS.

5. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT HERNAN AGUILO IS ONE OF REMAINING PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF MIR STILL IN CHILE, AND THAT DINA IS INDEED HUNTING HIM.

5. THIS CASE IS GOOD EXAMPLE OF CHARGE AND COUNTERCHARGE IN THE MURKY ATMOSPHERE OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN CHILE. THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT ABUSES BY THE SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH TO A LESSER DEGREE THAN A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN ANTI-MIR CAMPAIGN WAS AT ITS HEIGHT. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS A TENDENCY TO ACCEPT UNCRITICALLY EVEN WHAT MAY BE PURELY PROPAGANDA CHARGES AGAINST THE GOC; THE CREDIBILITY OF GOC DENIALS, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE HONEST, IS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED.
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